

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. SHM-98-005-5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)	Examiner: Unknown
SHINPEI OKAJIMA, et al)	Art Unit: 3682
Application No.: Unknown)	
Filed: Herewith)	<u>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</u>
For: SNOWBOARD BINDING)	
)	

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner:

Prior to the first office action on the merits, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/761,606, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/348,844, now U.S. Patent Number 5,971,420, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/254,889, now abandoned, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-47.

Please amend claim 48 as follows:

48. (Amended) A snowboard binding mechanism for securing a cleat adapted to be attached to a snowboard boot to a snowboard, comprising:

a front main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard, said front main body including a cleat receiving opening for receiving a front tab of a cleat;

a rear main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard;

a latch pivotally mounted to said rear main body to pivot between an engaged position and a release position, said latch including a notch for receiving a rear tab of a cleat;

a spring mounted on said rear main body, said spring arranged to bias said latch toward said engaged position; and

said latch being pivotable to said release position allowing release of the rear tab held therein against the bias of said spring.

Please cancel claims 73-144.

Please add the following new claims:

145. (New) A snowboard binding mechanism for securing a cleat adapted to be attached to a snowboard boot to a snowboard, comprising:

a front main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard, said front main body including a cleat receiving opening for receiving a front tab of a cleat;

a rear main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard, said rear main body having a rearward-facing surface;

a latch pivotally mounted to said rear main body to pivot between an engaged position and a release position, said latch being rigid and having a first leg with a front surface, said latch further including a notch for receiving a rear tab of a cleat, said notch forming a recess at least part of which is located rearwardly of said front surface of said first leg;

a spring mounted on said rear main body, said spring arranged to bias said latch toward said engaged position;

wherein said latch is prevented from pivoting beyond said engaged position by an abutment of said front surface of said first leg against said rearward-facing surface of said rear main body; and

wherein said latch is pivotable to said release position allowing release of the rear tab held therein against the bias of said spring.

146. (New) A snowboard binding mechanism as in claim 145 wherein an entirety of said recess is located rearwardly of said front surface of said first leg.

147. (New) A snowboard binding mechanism as in claim 145 wherein said latch further has a second leg with a front surface and said front surfaces of the first and second legs abut against said rearward-facing surface of said rear main body to prevent said latch from pivoting beyond said engaged position.

REMARKS

Claims 48-72 are pending. Claims 1-47 and 73-144 have been canceled. Claims 145-147 have been added.

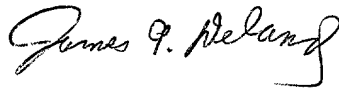
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The applicant elects the embodiment shown in Figs. 18-23 for prosecution on the merits. It is believed that all pending claims read on, but are not limited to, that embodiment.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Deland".

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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 has been amended as follows:

This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number. 08/761,606, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/348,844, now U.S. Patent Number 5,971,420, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/254,889, now abandoned, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 48 has been amended as follows:

48. (Amended) A snowboard binding mechanism for securing [the] a cleat [of] adapted to be attached to a snowboard boot to a snowboard, comprising:

a front main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard, said front main body including a cleat receiving opening for receiving a front tab of a cleat;

a rear main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard;

a latch pivotally mounted to said rear main body to pivot between an engaged position and a release position, said latch including a notch for receiving a rear tab of a cleat;

a spring mounted on said rear main body, said spring arranged to bias said latch toward said engaged position; and

said latch being pivotable to said release position allowing release of the rear tab held therein against the bias of said spring.